

the “‘State of the State We’re Really In’ Bake Sale.” And while his criticisms are direct and his position unflinching, Steve has earned the respect of legislators and officials alike. He never compromises his vision and always works around-the-clock to mobilize support for the protection of human services.

Steve manages to forever remind us all that every citizen deserves respect, and with that recognition of human dignity comes the obligation to assist those in need. He serves as a voice for the most vulnerable in our society, and the utter importance of his life’s work cannot be overstated.

There is no more noble goal than to serve others. Steve remains a loyal friend to those in need of his help, and he has never backed down from the challenge of defending them. I am honored by his ceaseless efforts and it is with respect and gratitude that I join in celebrating Steve’s life, work, and innumerable contributions.●

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM “BUNKER BILL” KANE

● Mr. MILLER. Madam President, today I wish to pay tribute to BG William P. Kane, who on July 10, 2004, will complete nearly 6 years of command at Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta, GA, and who will move on to command at Peterson Air Force Base, CO.

When we were young, many of us were exposed to the phrase “you can do anything that you set your mind to.” Some of us live out that desire by finding success as academics, others as scientists or politicians. Some of us find passion in the freedom of flight, while some of us thrive in the structure of the military. However, very few of us are able to test our limits and succeed in multiple areas. I stand before you to recognize one such person.

BG William P. Kane is the current commander of the 94th Airlift Wing at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, leading both the 94th Airlift Wing and Dobbins ARB. Although Dobbins is a small base in physical size, it also happens to be the largest multiservice Reserve training base in the world. Owned by the Air Force Reserve, Dobbins supports more than 10,000 guardsmen and reservists from the Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force. It is home to nearly 50 aircraft assigned to different flying units and boasts more than 7,000 takeoffs and landings each month. This enormous flying mission is what General Kane manages on a daily basis, around, I would like to point out, one of the busiest airports in the Nation, Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport.

After our Nation was attacked on September 11, 2001, the military had to quickly adapt to a new mission. As operational tempo increased, commanders had to take on expanding roles. General Kane immediately took the necessary and innovative steps to transform the mission of Dobbins ARB

and the 94th Airlift Wing. While Dobbins continued to embrace its role in training C-130 crew members and maintaining combat-ready units to deploy on short notice, General Kane had to “batten down the hatches” in the heightened security atmosphere. And in typical fashion, General Kane took on his force protection mission with vigor, even relishing in the nickname “Bunker Bill,” as he erected sandbags and barriers at the base.

General Kane began his impressive Air Force career after graduating from the State University of New York at Binghamton in 1969 with a bachelor’s degree in biology. He entered the Air Force soon thereafter and obtained his commission through Officers Training School. After serving 5 years on active duty at Dyess Air Force Base, TX, General Kane joined the Reserves at Niagara Falls International Airport, NY, and served in the 328th Tactical Airlift Squadron while attending graduate school. He completed his graduate work in 1982 and was awarded his Ph.D. in cell and molecular biology. He then went on to conduct basic biological research as a postdoctoral fellow at the Fox Chase Cancer Institute in Philadelphia, PA, and the State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY. He then joined the Air Reserve technician program in 1984 at March Air Force Base, CA. General Kane is a command pilot with more than 6,500 flying hours.

Looking back over General Kane’s illustrious career thus far, I am reminded of a quote by Orison Swett Marden, a famed 19th century thinker. Marden stated that:

the greatest thing a man can do in this world is to make the most possible out of the stuff that has been given to him. This is success and there is none other.

Officer, pilot, academic, scientist, husband, father. I believe that Marden, were he still alive today, would not hesitate to proclaim GEN William P. Kane a completely successful man. People spend most of their lives attempting to do one thing well. Few and far between are the people who have the courage to try and the determination to achieve success at multiple levels, as General Kane certainly has. And he is not finished.

I thank him for his years of service to the Air Force Reserve and to Georgia. I wish him and his family all the best as he continues with his Air Force career in Colorado and with all future endeavors. Georgia will miss General Kane. He is Georgia at its finest.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:28 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 120. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message also announced the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills and joint resolution:

H.R. 884. An act to provide for the use and distribution of the funds awarded to the Western Shoshone identifiable group under Indian Claims Commission Docket Numbers 326-A-1, 326-A-3, and 326-K, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2751. An act to provide new human capital flexibilities with respect to the GAO, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4103. An act to extend and modify the trade benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

H.J. Res. 97. Joint resolution approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

The enrolled bills and joint resolution were signed subsequently by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. FRIST).

The message further announced that pursuant to section 214(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15344), and the order of the House of December 8, 2003, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Election Assistance Commission Board of Advisors for a term of two years: Mr. J.C. Watts, Jr., of Norman, Oklahoma.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 4278. An act to amend the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 to support programs of grants to States to address the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 4417. An act to modify certain deadlines pertaining to machine-readable, tamper-resistant entry and exit documents; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 4478. An act to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through July 23, 2004, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 218. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to exempt qualified current and former law enforcement officers from State laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed handguns.

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2707. To provide for an assessment of the extent of the invasion of Salt Cedar and Russian Olive on lands in the Western United States and efforts to date to control such invasion on public and private lands, including tribal lands, to establish a demonstration program to address the invasion of Salt Cedar and Russian Olive, and for other purposes.